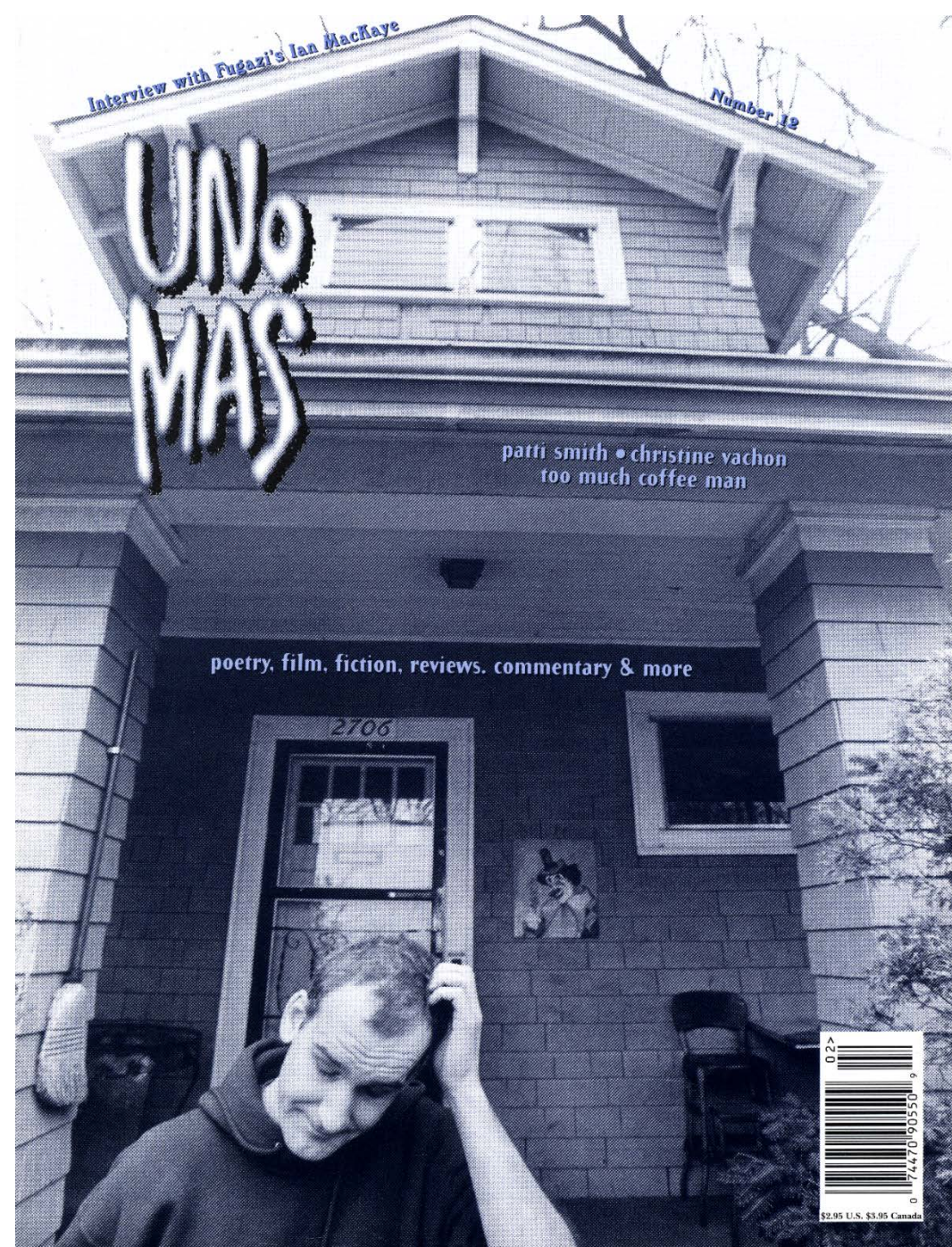


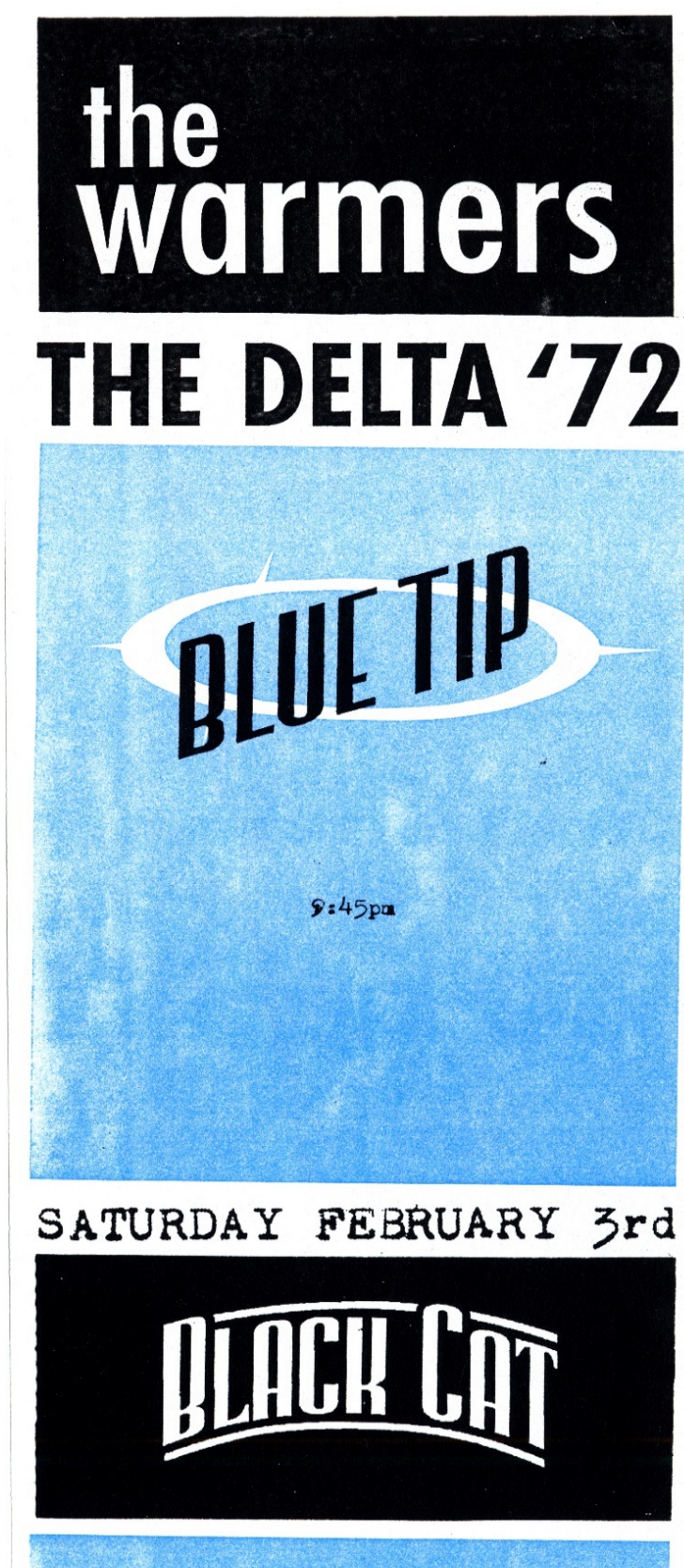
# Archiving Punk at Special Collections in Performing Arts (SCPA)

Since 2014, Special Collections in Performing Arts (SCPA) has stewarded several collections of archival material related to the punk rock subculture in the Washington, D.C. area.



## The D.C. Punk and Indie Fanzine collection

The first punk collection at SCPA, the D.C. Punk and Indie Fanzine collection centers on fanzines, which are publications made by amateur enthusiasts of a specific subject and, generally, in small runs. Punk fanzines flourished from the 1970s through the 1990s, but still persist today. This collection gathers more than 400 print titles together, along with some digital files. This summer, SCPA launches a punk oral history project, capturing interviews with fanzine creators.



## The Jason Farrell collection

This collection consists primarily of posters and fliers created by musician and graphic artist Jason Farrell, who was an active member of the D.C.-area punk music scene in the 1980s and 1990s. These items were created to promote concerts and recordings that Farrell was connected to and most of them were designed by Farrell himself. The collection includes 14 fliers, 11 posters, 1 piece of ephemera, and 1 VHS tape containing a short film by Farrell.

## Punk?

Punk is a genre of music and a surrounding subculture that emerged in the mid-1970s from North America and Europe before swiftly spreading to all parts of the world. Typically ignored or excluded by mainstream culture due to its ostensible repudiation of prevailing values, punk musicians and fans created their own publications and promotional materials, embracing methods used by previous underground movements while subsequently establishing distinctive aesthetics and ethics.

## How?

Nearly forty donors, so far, have contributed materials like fanzines, photographs, concert fliers & posters, digital files, and various ephemera to create and enhance these collections. Starting with my own donation of materials, I used personal contacts within the local punk scene, as well as social media, to bring in additional donors.

## Who?

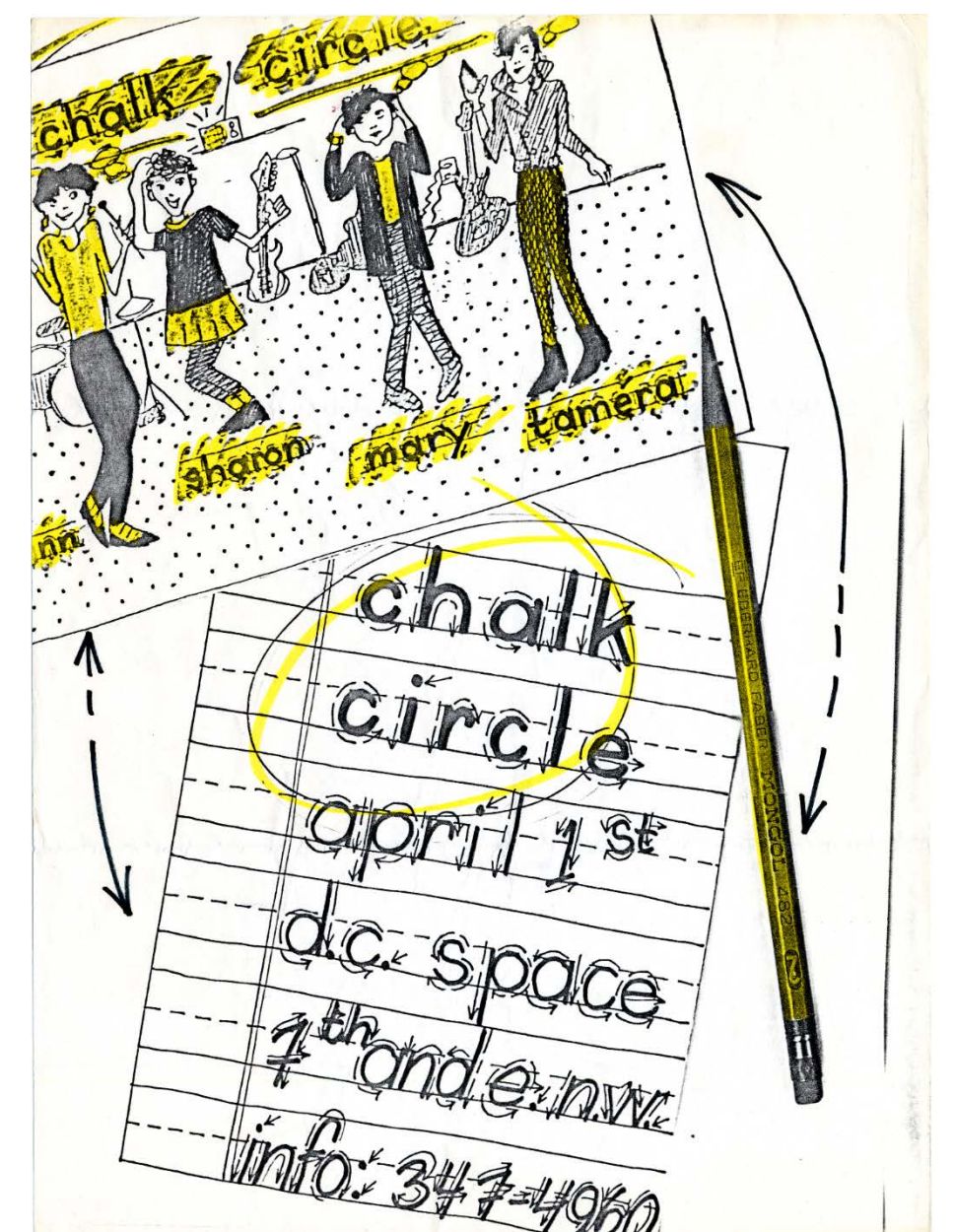
The punk collections are now some of the most used in SCPA's holdings. Researchers have used these materials to help create books, journal articles, documentaries, comic books, dissertations, clothing, artwork, and more.

## Why?

Inspired by like-minded punk collections at other institutions like NYU, Duke, and the University of Iowa, SCPA has helped to establish punk as a small but growing subject within academic study of popular culture. Working with punk collections has furthered our mission to collect, serve, and preserve performing arts materials related to practice, particularly those produced in the D.C. area.

## The Sharon Cheslow Punk Flyers collection, 1979-1991

This collection was created by musician, artist, author, educator, and onetime UMD student and WMUC DJ, Sharon Cheslow. Cheslow was an active participant in the D.C. punk music scene from the late 1970s until she moved in the early 1990s. While living in the D.C. area, Cheslow amassed a collection of fliers mostly pertaining to D.C. bands, including her own. The collection includes 484 punk fliers created and collected from 1979-1991.



## The John Davis collection on punk

This collection consists primarily of concert fliers, posters, and photographs that I have collected as an active participant in the D.C.-area punk music scene since the early 1990s. I took the photographs in this collection at various concerts in the mid-1990s and many of the fliers and posters in the collection relate to my musical career.



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